11-1160
2004 TOWNSHIP OF PIPESTONE
Berrien County, Michigan

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
CAL AUTO AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Year Ended March 31, 2004

Michigan Dept. of Treasury, Local Audit & Finance Division 496 (3-98). Formerly L-3147 AUDITING PROCEDURES REPORT

Issue under P.A. 2 of 1968, as amended. Filing is mandatory.											
	vernment				Local Governmen				Count	y errien	
	⊠ Towns	ship			Township of			Submitted to		HIEH	
	Audit Date Opinion Date Date Accountant Report Submitted to State: March 31, 2004 June 4, 2004 June 4, 2004										
We have	We have audited the financial statements of this local unit of government and rendered an opinion on financial statements										
prepared	d in acco	rdar	nce with the St	atemen	ts of the Govern	nmental Ad	counting S	tandards B	oard (G	ASB) and	the <i>Uniform</i>
				atement	s for Counties	and Local	Units of G	overnment	in Micr	ngan by t	ne Michigan
рерапп	nent of Ti	reas	ury.						RE	CEIV OF TREA	ED
We affir	m that:								DEPT	OF TREA	งรบิคิรั
1. We h	nave com	plie	d with the Bulle	etin for t	the Audits of Lo	cal Units of	Governme	nt in Michig	an as f	wised 0 2	2004
2. We a	are certifi	ed p	oublic accounta	ınts regi	istered to praction	ce in Michi	gan.			7/16	1
			following. "Yents and recomr		onses have beer ons	n disclosed	in the finar	icial statem	ents\un	unuding the	ewnootes, or in
You mu	st check	the	applicable box	for eac	h item below.						
\square yes	⊠ no	1.	Certain compo	onent u	nits/funds/agend	ies of the l	ocal unit ar	e excluded	from th	e financia	statements.
☐ yes	⊠ no	2.	There are acc earnings (P.A.		ed deficits in one 1980).	e or more o	of this unit's	unreserve	d fund b	alances/re	etained
☐ yes	⊠ no	3.	There are inst 1968, as ame		of non-complian	ce with the	Uniform Ac	counting a	nd Budg	jeting Act	(P.A. 2 of
☐ yes	⊠ no	4.	The local unit has violated the conditions of either an order issued under the Municipal Finance Act or its requirements, or an order issued under the Emergency Municipal Loan Act.								
☐ yes	⊠ no	5.	The local unit holds deposits/investments which do not comply with statutory requirements. (P.A. 20 of 1943, as amended [MCL 129.91], or P.A. 55 of 1982, as amended [MCL 38.1132]).								
☐ yes	⊠ no	6.	The local unit has been delinquent distributing tax revenues that were collected for another taxing unit.								
☐ yes	yes no 7. The local unit has violated the Constitutional requirement (Article 9, Section 24) to fund current year earned pension benefits (normal costs) in the current year. If the plan is more than 100% funded and the overfunding credits are more than the normal cost requirement, no contributions are due (paid during they year).						% funded				
☐ yes	⊠ no	8.	The local unit 1995 (MCL 12		redit cards and h	nas not add	opted an app	olicable pol	icy as re	equired by	P.A. 266 of
☐ yes	⊠ no	9.	The local unit	has no	t adopted an inv	estment po	olicy as requ	uired by P.	A. 196 c	f 1997 (M	CL 129.95).
									1 .	Го Ве	Not
Wa h	ave enc	loe	ed the follow	ina:				Enclose	1	rwarded	Required
The le	tter of co	mm	ents and recon	nmenda	ations.			Х			
Repor	ts on ind	ividu	ıal federal finar	ncial as	sistance prograr	ns (prograi	m audits).			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	X
Single Audit Reports (ASLGU).											
Certified Public Accountant (Firm Name) Campbell, Kusterer & Co., P.C.											
Street /	Street Address 512 N. Lincoln, Suite 100, P.O. Box 686 City Bay City MI 48707						07				
								·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
1	Accountant Signature Campbell, Kusterer & Co., P.C.										

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CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

June 4, 2004

To the Township Board Township of Pipestone Berrien County, Michigan

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial statements of the Township of Pipestone, Berrien County, Michigan, as of March 31, 2004, and for the year then ended as listed in the table of contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the Township of Pipestone's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general purpose financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the general purpose financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall general purpose financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Township of Pipestone, Berrien County, Michigan, as of March 31, 2004, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole. The supplementary information listed in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the general purpose financial statements of the Township of Pipestone, Berrien County, Michigan. Such information, has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the general purpose financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole.

Campbell, Kusterer & Co., F. C.

CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C. Certified Public Accountants

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET – ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS EXHIBIT A March 31, 2004

	Governmental Fu	und Types Special	Fiduciary Fund Type	Account Group
	General	Revenue	Agency	General <u>Fixed Assets</u>
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash in bank Taxes receivable Due from other funds Land Buildings Equipment	315 155 97 3 106 69 1 00 - - -	13 853 37 - - - - -	1 00 - - - - -	5 826 00 75 131 00 201 923 20
Total Assets	318 263 66	<u>13 853 37</u>	1 00	282 880 20
Liabilities and Fund E	<u>quity</u>			
Liabilities: Due to other funds Total liabilities	-	-	1 00 1 00	-
Fund equity: Investment in general fixed assets Fund balances: Unreserved:	-	-	-	282 880 20
Undesignated Total fund equity	318 263 66 318 263 66	13 853 37 13 853 37		282 880 20
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	1 318 263 66	13 853 37	1 00	282 880 20

-	Total (Memorandum Only)
_	
-	329 010 34 3 106 69 1 00
_	5 826 00 75 131 00
	201 923 20
-	614 998 23
-	
-	1 00 1 00
-	
-	282 880 20
-	332 117 03 614 997 23
-	614 998 23
-	

COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES

IN FUND BALANCES – ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
Year Ended March 31, 2004

EXHIBIT B Page 1

Governmental Fund Types Total Special (Memorandum General Revenue Only) Revenues: Property taxes 43 987 39 43 987 39 Licenses and permits 37 351 00 37 351 00 164 375 00 State revenue sharing 164 375 00 Charges for services - cemetery 9 325 00 9 325 00 Interest 6 895 92 6 895 92 Miscellaneous 2 295 70 2 295 70 Total revenues 226 879 01 37 351 00 264 230 01 **Expenditures:** Legislative: **Township Board** 2 485 00 2 485 00 General government: Supervisor 9 778 61 9 778 61 **Elections** 521 51 521 51 Clerk 12 763 51 12 763 51 Assessor 17 185 08 17 185 08 **Board of Review** 525 00 525 00 Treasurer 10 716 37 10 716 37 Cemetery 17 837 34 17 837 34 Township hall 1 302 51 1 302 51 Financial administration 17 657 14 17 657 14 Public safety: Fire protection 47 514 79 47 514 79 **Planning** 810 00 810 00 **Building inspection** 35 791 66 35 791 66 Public works: Highways and streets 72 339 01 72 339 01 Drains at large 1 078 12 1 078 12 Culture and recreation: Library 660 00 660 00 Other: Community development 4 246 00 4 246 00

COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES – ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES Year Ended March 31, 2004 **EXHIBIT B**

Page 2

-		Governmental Fund Types Special General Revenue		Total (Memorandum Only)
– Total	expenditures	217 419 99	<u>35 791 66</u>	<u>253 211 65</u>
	ss of revenues er expenditures	9 459 02	1 559 34	11 018 36
- Fund	balances, April 1	308 804 64	12 294 03	321 098 67
Fund	Balances, March 31	<u>318 263 66</u>	<u>13 853 37</u>	332 117 03

COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES – BUDGET AND ACTUAL – GENERAL AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Year Ended March 31, 2004

EXHIBIT C Page 1

		General Fund	
	Budget	Actual	Over (Under) Budget
Revenues:			
Property taxes	46 100 00	43 987 39	(2 112 61)
Licenses and permits	-	-	-
State revenue sharing	174 000 00	164 375 00	(9 625 00)
Charges for services – cemetery	10 700 00	9 325 00	(1 375 00)
Interest	400 00	6 895 92	6 495 92
Miscellaneous	<u>1 515 00</u>	2 295 70	<u> 780 70</u>
Total revenues	<u>232 715 00</u>	226 879 01	(5 835 99)
Expenditures:			
Legislative:			
Township Board	2 485 00	2 485 00	-
General government:			
Supervisor	9 778 61	9 778 61	-
Elections	521 51	521 51	-
Clerk	12 763 51	12 763 51	-
Assessor	17 185 08	17 185 08	-
Board of Review	525 00	525 00	-
Treasurer	10 716 37	10 716 37	-
Cemetery	17 837 34	17 837 34	-
Township hall and grounds	1 302 51	1 302 51	-
Financial administration	17 657 14	17 657 14	-
Public safety:			
Fire protection	47 514 79	47 514 79	-
Planning	810 00	810 00	-
Building inspection	-	-	-
Public works:			
Highways and streets	72 339 01	72 339 01	-
Drains at large	1 078 12	1 078 12	-
Culture and recreation:			
Library	660 00	660 00	-
Other:			
Community development	6 927 85	4 246 00	(2 681 85)

	Spec	Special Revenue Fund					
	Budget	Actual	Over (Under) Budget				
_	- 45 285 00	- 37 351 00	- (7 934 00)				
_	- - -	- - -	- - -				
_	<u>-</u> 45 285 00	37 351 00	(7 934 00)				
-							
_	-	-	-				
_	- - -	- - -	- - -				
_	- - -	- - -	- - -				
_	- - -	- - -	- - -				
_	-	-	- -				
_	35 791 66 -	35 791 66 -	-				
_	-	-	-				
_	-	-	- -				

COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES -- BUDGET AND ACTUAL GENERAL AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

AL AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS EXHIBIT C
Year Ended March 31, 2004 Page 2

General Fund Over (Under) Budget Budget Actual Expenditures: (continued) Contingency 4 517 66 (4 517 66) Total expenditures 224 619 50 217 419 998 (7 199 51) Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures 8 095 50 9 459 02 1 363 52 Fund balances, April 1 308 804 64 308 804 64 8 095 50 Fund Balances, March 31 318 263 66 <u>310 168 16</u>

Special Revenue Fund					
Budget	Actual	Over (Under) <u>Budget</u>			
-	-				
<u>35 791 66</u>	<u>35 791 66</u>	No.			
9 493 34	1 559 34	(7 934 00)			
	12 294 03	12 294 03			
9 493 34	<u>13 853 37</u>	4 360 03			

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2004

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting policies of the Township of Pipestone, Berrien County, Michigan conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units.

Reporting Entity

In accordance with the provisions of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's Statement No. 14 "The Financial Reporting Entity," the general purpose financial statements of the Township contain all the Township funds and account groups that are controlled by or dependent on the Township's executive or legislative branches.

The reporting entity is the Township of Pipestone. The Township is governed by an elected Township Board. As required by generally accepted accounting principles, these financial statements present the Township as the primary government.

Basis of Presentation

The financial activities of the local unit are recorded in separate funds and account groups, categorized and described as follows:

General Fund

This fund is used to account for all financial transactions except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The fund includes the general operating expenditures of the local unit. Revenues are derived primarily from property taxes, state and federal distributions, grants, and other intergovernmental revenues.

Special Revenue Fund

This fund is used to account for specific governmental revenues (other than special assessments and major capital projects) requiring separate accounting because of legal or regulatory provisions or administrative action.

Fiduciary Fund

The Current Tax Collection Fund is used to account for assets held as an agent for others.

Account Group

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2004

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

General Fixed Assets Account Group

This account group presents the fixed assets of the local unit utilized in its general operations.

Measurement Focus/Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All governmental fund types are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities generally are included on the balance sheet. Operating statements of these funds present revenues and other financing sources and, expenditures and other financial uses in net current assets.

The modified accrual basis of accounting is followed by the governmental fund types. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when susceptible to accrual which is both measurable and available. Available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures, other than principal and interest on long-term debt, are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, if measurable. Principal and interest on general long-term debt is recognized when due.

Revenues from local sources consist primarily of property taxes. Property taxes and revenues received from the State are recognized when susceptible to accrual. Miscellaneous revenues are recorded as revenue when received in cash because they are generally not measurable until actually received. Investment earnings are recorded as earned since they are measurable and available.

Property Taxes

Property taxes and other revenue that are both measurable and available for use to finance operations are recorded as revenue when earned.

Properties are assessed as of December 31 and the related property taxes become a lien on December 1 of the following year. These taxes are due on February 14 with the final collection date of February 28 before they are added to the county tax rolls. The Township 2003 tax roll millage rate was .8996 mills, and the taxable value was \$48,467,589.00.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2004

Note 1 – <u>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</u> (continued)

Fixed Assets

Purchases of fixed assets for all funds are recorded as expenditures in their respective funds at the time of purchase. They are also recorded at cost in the General Fixed Assets Group of Accounts as required by generally accepted accounting principles.

Investments

Investments are stated at market.

Receivables

Receivables have been recognized for all significant amounts due to the Township. Allowances for uncollectible accounts have not been provided for in that collection is not considered doubtful and any uncollected amount would be immaterial.

Inventories

Inventories of supplies are considered to be immaterial and are not recorded.

Compensated Absences (Vacation and Sick Leave)

Employees are not allowed to accumulate vacation and sick pay and therefore no accumulated amount is recorded in the financial statements.

Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The following procedures are followed in establishing the budgetary data reflected in these general purpose financial statements:

- 1. Prior to the beginning of the fiscal year, the proposed budget for each budgetary fund is submitted to the Township Board for consideration.
- 2. The proposed budgets include expenditures as well as the methods of financing them.
- 3. Public hearings are held to obtain taxpayer comments.
- 4. The budgets are adopted at the activity level by a majority vote of the Township Board.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2004

Note 1 – <u>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</u> (continued)

Budgets and Budgetary Accounting (continued)

- 5. The budgets are adopted on the modified accrual basis of accounting.
- 6. The originally adopted budgets can be amended during the year only by a majority vote of the Township Board.
- 7. The adopted budgets are used as a management control device during the year for all budgetary funds.
- 8. Budget appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.
- The budgeted amounts shown in these general purpose financial statements are the originally adopted budgets with all amendments that were approved by the Township Board during the fiscal year.

Encumbrances

Encumbrances involving the current recognition of purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for future expenditures are not recorded.

Postemployment Benefits

The Township provides no postemployment benefits to past employees.

Note 2 – Deposits and Investments

Michigan Compiled Laws, Section 129.91, authorizes the Township to deposit and invest in the accounts of federally insured banks, credit unions, and savings and loan associations; bonds, securities and other direct obligations of the United States, or any agency or instrumentality of the United States; United States government or federal agency obligation repurchase agreements; banker's acceptance of United States banks; commercial paper rated within the two highest classifications, which mature not more than 270 days after the date purchase; obligations of the State of Michigan or its political subdivisions which are rated as investment grade; and mutual funds composed of investment vehicles which are legal for direct investment by local units of government in Michigan. Financial institutions eligible for deposit of public funds must maintain an office in Michigan.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2004

Note 2 – <u>Deposits and Investments</u> (continued)

The Township Board has designated one bank for the deposit of Township funds. The investment policy adopted by the board in accordance with Public Act 196 of 1997 has authorized investment in all investments authorized by state law as listed above.

The Township's deposits and investments are in accordance with statutory authority.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 3, risk disclosures for the cash deposits are as follows:

	Amounts
Total Deposits	329 010 34

Amounts in the bank balances are without considering deposits in transit or uncleared checks.

	Bank <u>Balances</u>
Insured (FDIC) Uninsured and Uncollateralized	100 011 06 292 951 45
Total Deposits	392 962 51

The Township of Pipestone did not have any investments as of March 31, 2004.

Note 3 - Changes in General Fixed Assets

A summary of changes in general fixed assets follows:

	Balance 4/1/03	Additions	Deletions	Balance 3/31/04
Land	5 826 00	-	-	5 826 00
Buildings	75 131 00	-	-	75 131 00
Equipment	200 973 44	949 76		201 923 20
Totals	<u>281 930 44</u>	949 76	-	<u>282 880 20</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2004

Note 4 - Interfund Receivables and Payables

The amounts of interfund receivables and payables are as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	Interfund <u>Receivable</u>	<u>Fund</u>	Interfund Payable
General	1 00	Current Tax Collection	100
Total	1 00	Total	1 00

Note 5 – <u>Deferred Compensation Plan</u>

The Township does not have a deferred compensation plan.

Note 6 – Pension Plan

The Township does not have a pension plan.

Note 7 - Risk Management

The Township is exposed to various risks of loss related to property loss, torts, errors, omissions, and employee injuries (workers' compensation). The Township has purchased commercial insurance for property loss, torts and worker's compensation claims. Settled claims relating to the commercial insurance have not exceeded the amount of insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

Note 8 – Building Permits

As of March 31, 2004, the Township had building permit revenues of \$37,351.00 and building permit expenses of \$35,791.66.

Note 9 – <u>Total Columns on Combined Statements--Overview</u>

The total columns on the combined financial statements are captioned "Memorandum Only" to indicate that they are presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in these columns do not present financial position, results of operations, or changes in financial position in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Neither is such data comparable to a consolidation, because interfund eliminations have not been made in the aggregation of this data.

prin.			
	GENERAL FL	IND EXPENDITURES BY DETAILED ACCOUNT	EXHIBIT D
		Year Ended March 31, 2004	
		Teal Effect March 51, 2004	Page 1
	Taumahia Daard		
	Township Board:		
	Wages		2 400 00
	Miscellaneous		85 00
			2 485 00
_			
	Supervisor:		
	Salary		9 350 00
_	Miscellaneous		
	Miscellaricous		428 61
			<u>9 778 61</u>
_			
_	Elections:		
	Wages		461 52
	Supplies		59 99
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,			521 51
			02101
	Clerk:		
-	Salary - Clerk		44 000 00
			11 000 00
	Salary - Deputy		1 100 00
_	Supplies		<u>663 51</u>
			12 763 51
	Assessor:		
	Salary		12 874 98
	Miscellaneous		4 310 10
_	Board of Review:		<u>17 185 08</u>
	Wages		505.00
	vvages		525 00
_	T		
	Treasurer:		
	Salary - Treasurer		8 950 00
_	Salary - Deputy		1 100 00
:	Miscellaneous		666 37
			10 716 37
_			10 7 10 07
	Cemetery:		
	Supervisor salary		4 000 00
	Sexton wages		1 600 00
			6 845 50
:	Repairs and maintenance		3 791 84
	Opening/closing		5 200 00
_	Truck		400 00
:			17 837 34
		•	
_	Township hall		1 302 51
	•	- 13 -	1 002 01
		- IO -	

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES BY DETAILED ACCOUNTY Year Ended March 31, 2004	NT EXHIBIT D Page 2
Financial administration:	
Audit	1 800 00
Insurance	4 595 31
Dues	1 147 99
Supplies	131 39
Printing and publishing	1 355 36
Payroll taxes	3 707 55
Miscellaneous	1 934 94
Computer services	2 984 60
	17 657 14
Fire protection:	
Fire board wages	570 00
Contracted services	<u>46 944 79</u>
	47 514 79
Planning:	
Commission wages	810 00
I limburgue and of a sta	
Highways and streets	<u>72 339 01</u>
Drains at large	<u> </u>
Library:	
Board wages	660 00
Community dovalonment	
Community development	<u>4 246 00</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>217 419 99</u>

CURRENT TAX COLLECTION FUND STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES Year Ended March 31, 2004

EXHIBIT E

	Balance <u>4/1/03</u>	Additions	<u>Deductions</u>	Balance 3/31/04
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash in bank Total Assets	1 00 1 00	884 398 53 884 398 53	884 398 53 884 398 53	1 00 1 00
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Due to other funds Due to others Total Liabilities	1 00	41 020 70 843 377 83 884 398 53	41 020 70 843 377 83 884 398 53	1 00 1 00

CURRENT TAX COLLECTION FUND STATEMENT

1 00

OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSE Year Ended March 31, 2004	
Cash in bank – beginning of year	100
Cash receipts:	
Property tax	884 258 53
Animal licenses	140 00
Total cash receipts	884 398 53
Total beginning balance and cash receipts	<u>884 399 53</u>
Cash disbursements:	
Township General Fund	41 020 70
Berrien County	271 933 57
Berrien Intermediate School District	107 971 99
Lake Michigan Community College	82 753 85
Benton Harbor Area School	371 14
Eau Claire Schools	329 159 36
Dowagiac Schools	2 286 78
Eau Claire District Library	32 126 85
State of Michigan	11 928 71
Refunds	4 845 58
Total cash disbursements	884 398 53

Cash in Bank - End of Year

CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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AUDIT COMMUNICATION AND REPORT OF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

June 4, 2004

To the Township Board Township of Pipestone Berrien County, Michigan JUL 2 0 2004

We have audited the financial statements of the Township of Pipestone, for the year ended March 31, 2004. As required by auditing standards generally accepted in the United States, the independent auditor is required to make several communications to the governing body having oversight responsibility for the audit. The purpose of this communication is to provide you with additional information regarding the scope and results of our audit that may assist you with your oversight responsibilities of the financial reporting process for which management is responsible.

<u>AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN</u> THE UNITED STATES

We conducted our audit of the financial statements of the Township of Pipestone in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. The following paragraph explains our responsibilities under those standards.

Management has the responsibility for adopting sound accounting policies, for maintaining an adequate and effective system of accounts, for the safeguarding of assets, and for devising an internal control structure that will, among other things, help assure the proper recording of transactions. The transactions that should be reflected in the accounts and in the financial statements are matters within the direct knowledge and control of management. Our knowledge of such transactions is limited to that acquired through our audit. Accordingly, the fairness of representations made through the financial statements is an implicit and integral part of management's accounts and records. However, our responsibility for the financial statements is confined to the expression of an opinion on them. The financial statements remain the responsibility of management.

The concept of materiality is inherent in the work of an independent auditor. An auditor places greater emphasis on those items that have, on a relative basis, more importance to the financial statements and greater possibilities of material error than those items of lesser importance or those in which the possibility of material error is remote.

To the Township Board Township of Pipestone Berrien County, Michigan

For this purpose, materiality has been defined as "the magnitude of an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would have been changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement."

An independent auditor's objective in an audit is to obtain sufficient competent evidential matter to provide a reasonable basis for forming an opinion on the financial statements. In doing so, the auditor must work within economic limits; the opinion, to be economically useful, must be formed within a reasonable length of time and at reasonable cost. That is why an auditor's work is based on selected tests rather than an attempt to verify all transactions. Since evidence is examined on a test basis only, an audit provides only reasonable assurance, rather than absolute assurance, that financial statements are free of material misstatement. Thus, there is a risk that audited financial statements may contain undiscovered material errors or fraud. The existence of that risk is implicit in the phrase in the audit report, "in our opinion."

In the audit process, we gain an understanding of the internal control structure of an entity for the purpose of assisting in determining the nature, timing, and extent of audit testing. Our understanding is obtained by inquiry of management, testing transactions, and observation and review of documents and records. The amount of work done is not sufficient to provide a basis for an opinion on the adequacy of the internal control structure.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Auditing standards call for us to inform you of other significant issues such as, but not limited to, 1) Accounting estimates that are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements or because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgments; 2) Significant audit adjustments that may not have been detected except through the auditing procedures we performed; 3) Disagreements with management regarding the scope of the audit or application of accounting principles; 4) Consultation with other accountants; 5) Major issues discussed with management prior to retention; and 6) Difficulties encountered in performing the audit.

We have no significant issues, regarding these matters, to report to you at this time. Audit adjustments were minimal, and are available to review.

To the Township Board Township of Pipestone Berrien County, Michigan

GASB 34 IMPLEMENTATION

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board issued a new reporting model for governmental units which is to be implemented over the next few years. The implementation date of this pronouncement for the Township of Pipestone will begin with the year ended March 31, 2004, and will need to be implemented fully by March 31, 2005. The daily operations and recording transactions should not change significantly, however, the Township will be required to maintain additional records for the year end adjustments to the final presentation format.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING INTERNAL CONTROLS/COMPLIANCE/ EFFICIENCY

Our procedures disclosed the following conditions that we would like to bring to your attention:

SEGREGATION OF DUTIES

A separation of duties between persons who authorize transactions and persons who have control over the related assets does not always exist.

The least desirable accounting system is one in which an employee is responsible for executing the transaction and then recording the transaction from its origin to its ultimate posting in the General Ledger. This increases the likelihood that intentional or unintentional errors will go undetected. In most cases, adequate segregation of duties substantially increases control over errors without duplication of effort.

We understand that due to the size of needed staff, a proper segregation of duties may be impractical and the "cost to benefit" relationship may not justify the addition of accounting staff to accomplish the desired segregation.

These conditions were considered in determining the nature, timing and extent of the audit tests to be applied in our audit of the Township's financial statements and this communication of these matters does not affect our report on the Township's financial statements, dated March 31, 2004.

<u>SUMMARY</u>

We welcome any questions you may have regarding the foregoing comments and we would be happy to discuss any of these or other questions that you might have at your convenience.

Sincerely,

CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C.

Campbell, Kusterer & Co., P.C.

Certified Public Accountants